

18 May 1967

Captain W. F. Dyson
Administrative Services Bureau
Dallas Police Department

SUBJECT: Criminal Intelligence (6)
NEW ORLEANS INVESTIGATION
OF ASSASSINATION

Sir:

The attached newspaper clippings regarding SUBJECT were taken from the May 17, 1967 edition of the Dallas Times Herald.

Respectfully submitted,

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5-19-67
Det. 2965-102

Mystery? Me? ★

Lee Odom Shakes Garrison Theory

By JIM LEHRER
Staff Writer

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New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's mysterious "code," which he claims tied in Clay Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby in an assassination conspiracy may not be so mysterious or a code.

A 31-year-old Dallas area resi-

dent, very much a real person, although Jim Garrison strongly implied he didn't really exist, in an interview Tuesday did considerable damage to the latest assassination conspiracy theories of the New Orleans District attorney.

Lee Odom said in an exclusive interview with The Times Herald that "Lee Odom, P. O. Box 12106, Dallas, Texas," in Shaw's address book had no unusual connotations, although Garrison claims it does. Shaw is the New Orleans businessman Garrison has charged with conspiring with Oswald and others to assassinate President Kennedy.

Odom explains that he was only trying to promote a bullfight and Shaw was suggested in 1966 as a "good man to see about finding a place for my bullfight."

And that's why the P.O. Box 12106 and Odom's name were in Shaw's address book, Odom said.

Using a complex decoding system, Garrison claimed this notation actually worked out into Ruby's unlisted Dallas phone number. The same number — 12106 — was also found in Oswald's notebook but without Odom's name. But Odom

couldn't explain how the same number was in Oswald's notebook.

There had been a strong inference from Garrison that Odom did not exist.

"As I said, I gave it to him," Odom said of the notation in Shaw's book. "That was my post office box at the time—12106. I rented it—or my wife did for me—in the summer of 1966."

"I asked the manager of the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans about who would be a good man to see about finding a place for my bullfight," Odom said Tuesday. "He suggested Mr. Shaw, so I called him—or the manager called him, I don't remember exactly."

"He (Shaw) came over to the hotel, as I recall, and we talked for 15 or 20 minutes. He gave me his business card—I'll bet I still have it around here somewhere—and I gave him my address in Dallas. The bullfight didn't come off and we never communicated again. That's all there was to it."

The box, located in the Medical Center postal substation at Knight and Maple, was rented in the name of a barbecue company he was running at the time, Odom said. (A check with

the Post Office Department verified this.)

"I used this address — P.O. Box 12106 — for both the barbecue and the promotion business," he said.

The box was kept until October or November, as Odom recalls it. "We have another box now out here at the post office."

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Odom Says He Has Nothing To Hide

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he said. "Here" is the Dallas County town in which Odom now lives with his wife and two children.

They reside in a multi-unit apartment complex in the suburban city. For reason of privacy, Odom asked that the name of the city not be mentioned.

Odom said he was not aware that anyone was interested in talking to him until he was located Tuesday by The Times Herald with the help of the New Orleans States-Item.

"I didn't have a chance to read a newspaper or watch television over the weekend," said Odom, a tall, rangy man who was born in Lakeview, Texas.

He said he would be willing to tell his story to Garrison or anybody else. "I have nothing to hide—my goodness," he said. "You can tell Mr. Shaw that I am ready to help him if I can."

ODOM SAID he also felt sure that his story of the trip to New Orleans and his brief meeting with Shaw can be corroborated. "The man at the Roosevelt might remember it all," he said. "The records of the hotel should show I was there."

As he remembered it, Odom was in New Orleans for "two or three days" in the latter

part of November, 1963. With the Times Herald reporter present, he rummaged through some of his personal papers in his apartment Tuesday and came up with the stub of his airplane ticket he used to return from New Orleans to Dallas. It is dated Nov. 22, 1963.

"I never throw anything away," he said, "and I'll bet I'll eventually find Mr. Shaw's business card somewhere."

ODOM SAID he did not recall any of the specific things said either by him or Shaw in the November New Orleans conversation. "I was trying to find a place for the bullfight and he said he might help me—something like that," he said. "But the bullfight did not come off so that was it."

"That was the only time I have ever talked to Mr. Shaw or had any contact with him whatsoever."

Asked to describe the man he talked to, Odom gave a description as to size—"very tall and big," age—"about 50 or so" and other characteristics which match Shaw's.

LEFT UNANSWERED by Odom's story is the coincidence of the numbers, 19106, being in both Oswald's and Shaw's possession.

In front of the five-digit notations in Oswald's book are two letters which Garrison says are "P" and "O." Others say, however, that they are actually Russian letters.

Usually reliable investigative sources in Dallas say that P.O. Box 19106 did not come into existence here until the middle of 1965 when the Knight and Maple substation was re-modeled. This could not be confirmed definitely, however.

Since Oswald died in November, 1963 after being shot by Ruby, this had given some credence to Garrison's theory that the post office box number — along with the name, Lee Odom — were phonies and existed only as part of the Shaw-Oswald-Ruby code.

Garrison Says He's Very Interested in Talking to Odom

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison wants to talk to Lee Odom.

"We are very interested in knowing who introduced Mr. Odom to Mr. Shaw and how many bullfights Mr. Odom has actually produced and a few other things," Garrison said Wednesday in New Orleans.

"Mr Shaw" is Clay Shaw, the prominent New Orleans businessman whom Garrison is try-

ing to link with Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Lee Odom, a Dallas area businessman, was caught up in the web of confusion stemming from the investigation when his name and Dallas Post Office box number were found jotted in Shaw's address book.

GARRISON FIRST implied that Lee Odom did not exist.

Garrison Wednesday said, however, he and his investiga-

tors were well aware there is a real Lee Odom.

"The fact there is a real Lee Odom, however, is not the point," Garrison said. "The point is that Clay Shaw and Lee Oswald had the same post office box numbers in their address books and this post office box number is in coded form the unpublished phone number of Jack Ruby in 1963."

The New Orleans district attorney said:

"We are particularly interested in clarifying now whether there is also coded in Lee Oswald's address book the local (New Orleans) phone number of the Central Intelligence Agency," Garrison said.

HE CLAIMED he had had evidence for some time that Ruby was working with the CIA in Dallas during the same period Oswald was working with the CIA in New Orleans.

"This means that the CIA well knew that these two men (Ruby and Oswald) knew each other," Garrison said.

He claimed he also has evidence that Oswald was not the only CIA agent who was at Dealey Plaza that November afternoon in 1963 when President Kennedy was slain.

The CIA telephone number, Garrison said, was found in the front of Oswald's address book.

"Since it is obvious that it is no longer possible to get the truth in any form from officials of the CIA in Washington, no matter how highly placed, we are looking forward to talking

to the businessman (Odom) about some of these other circumstances," Garrison said.

Shaw's attorneys, meanwhile, continued to brand Garrison's probe into the investigation a "shell game"—particularly the circumstances involving their client and Odom.